Plan to boost biotech industry

2625. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up an ambitious plan to give a boost to biotech industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of the Government to encourage bio-technology subject in schools and colleges all over the country to meet future needs of the industry?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has put a "National Biotechnology Development Strategy" in place to give boost to biotech industry. The key elements of this Strategy include steps to reinforce the regulatory system, supporting small and medium sector innovations, building world class human capital and putting biotechnology partnership programme in place for advanced technologies through Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme and a Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) to act as an interface between private sector especially the small and medium enterprises and various start up industries, These programmes are the main focus of the Strategy for boosting the biotech industry through "public-private partnership".

(c) To meet the future needs of the industry, in terms of human capital, the Strategy focuses on expanding Ph. D. and Post Doctoral Programmes and enhancing the quality of Masters and Undergraduate level education. In an endeavour for a long term strategy, it has been built-in in the 'Strategy' to support institutions providing undergraduate education to achieve 'Star College' status. The Strategy is a road-map for the next decade as an ambitious plan for biotechnology human capital and industry development in the country.

Opening of science and technology centres

2626. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Science and Technology centres opened/proposed to be opened in the country especially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of the financial assistance along with incentives granted by the Government for the development and promotion of Science and Technology in the country;

(c) whether Government has received some proposals from the State Government for the development of Science and Technology in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of proposals pending with the Government and the time by when these pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL):(a) As per the available official statistics, there are 3960 R&D institutions in public and private sector in the country dealing with science and technology, out of which 402 Institutions are in Tamil Nadu.